

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 28, 2005. Claims 1, 7-9 and 11-32 were pending in that action. Claims 17-32 were allowed. Claims 1, 7-9 and 11 were rejected. Claims 12-16 were objected to. With the present response, claims 1, 7, 8, 9 and 11 are canceled. Claims 12 and 14 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gavalda ("Growing Semantic Grammars") in view of Wang ("A Robust Parser for Spoken Language Understanding"), and further in view of Russell (U.S. Pat. Pub. 2002/0156616 A1). With the present response, claims 1, 7-9 and 11 have been canceled. Applicant specifically reserves the right to pursue claims of a similar or exact scope in a different application.

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-32 are allowed. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 12-16 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and in any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 12 accordingly. In addition, Applicant has also amended claim 14. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments are consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter.

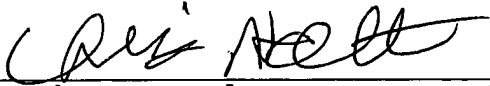
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely, claims 12-32 are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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